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Students' Awareness on Educational Tour Policies Issued by the Commission on Higher Education, Philippines

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Research Article

Abstract

Purpose: *This study explored the level of awareness of students on the educational tour policies based on the CHED memorandum order number 17 (CMO#17) of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in selected state universities in Region 8 in the Philippines. This study also assessed the constraints encountered by the students before, during, and after the educational tour.*

Method: *Four hundred (400) students are respondents in Higher Educational Institutions in S.Y. 2016 - 2017 with the study students' level of awareness on the Educational Tour. The study used Descriptive – correlational design utilizing Pearson r, Point Bi-serial, and Eta Correlation as Statistical tools.*

Results: *The findings state that most respondents answered a much aware level of awareness on the Educational Tour before, during, and after the conduct of the study. Lack of money, time, safety, and management deficiencies were moderately felt problems. It concluded that the level of awareness in Educational Tour before, during then after the educational tour is much aware.*

Implications: *The Study recommends, sustainable awareness programs, the inclusion of the discussion of educational tour in student, parent's orientation, and discussed in the student handbook. Constraints with the educational tour are addressed before the activity, and the conduct of relevant studies regarding educational tour be further addressed.*

Keywords: Educational Tour, Tour Policies, Awareness, Experiential Learning, Descriptive Correlational, The Philippines

1. Introduction

Learning takes place when students enjoy in a less formal setting like field trips, as students are challenged in applying their knowledge learned in the real-world setting (Leatherbury, 2011; Braund and Reiss, 2006; Falk, 1983; Flexer and Buron 1984). Awareness of the Policies of conducting an educational tour gives the teacher and students a bit more concern on safety and preparedness before, during and after the educational tour have applied, the study is conducted

through issued Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Memorandum Order no.17, series of 2012 which is the "Policies and Guidelines on Educational Tours and Field Trips of College and Graduate Students".

Occurrences concerning an educational tour of the Marinduque State College on February 21, 2013 (Inquirer.Net, 2013) and educational tours in the Bulacan State University dated August 19, 2014 (Business Mirror, 2014). Several schools have banned field trips and educational tours until such time the safety and security plus liabilities of the stakeholders can be assured. One main source of giving knowledge to students is by providing them the chance to self-experiences and lasting learning especially that educational field trips are conducted for them (Shakil, 2011).

In his Experiential Learning Theory, Kolbs expresses the four-stage cycle of learning that would give tangible experiences providing the basis for observation and likenesses were learners may create new ideas and new experiences (Kolb's 1974 as cited in ARC Facilitators toolkit, 2005). Giving the opportunity to the students to engage in positive activities will help them learn more and will also provide positive social behavior among others (Treceñe, 2019). Salinas (2016), one of his frameworks constitutes experiential learning theory where it was one of the influences in conducting outdoor learning activity. Experiential learning aids students to raise questions and simply find answers by involving them in community-based activities and responsibilities that somehow strengthen them and the community. On the study of Amosa, Ogunlade, and Atobatele (2015) indicates that educational tours contribute to the good academic performance of the students and it is important for the educational institutions where it will help for planning and maintaining the quality of education to the students (Caluza & Trecene, 2018).

The study determined the level of awareness on the educational tour policies in selected state universities of Region 8 as assessed by the students during the School Year 2016-2017 and their constraints. The study answers the student's level of awareness on educational tour policies as provided in CMO #17 classified according to Before the educational visit, During the educational visit, and After the educational visit. It also answers if the profile of the students is related to their level of awareness on educational tour policies and provided in CMO #17 and the constraints of educational tour. It shows that educational tours and field trips are an effective teaching strategy as an informal learning experience for students (Hofstein and Rosenfeld, 1996). The study was conducted during the school year 2016 – 2017 in selected State Universities of Eastern Visayas, randomly selecting students who have undergone Field Trips on their subject.

2. Methodology

The study applied a descriptive – correlational design. This design ascertained how much variation is caused by one variable. Besides, this research design sought to examine the relationship between two or more variables (Calmorin, 2000). The researcher-made questionnaire was used as the main tool to gather information. The information gathered from the respondents was organized, analyzed then statistically treated. The study used the frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean to describe categorical data. Further, to

determine the correlations between the variables, Pearson r, Point-biserial, and Eta Correlation were used.

There was a total of 400 student respondents with 50 students taken from each State University who were officially enrolled during the school year 2016 – 2017 from the identified universities of region 8 whose curricular programs included an educational tour as one of the required subjects. The researcher prepared structured questions through a survey questionnaire for the student respondents which was composed of sets, for the students and later validated. Part I dwelled on the profile of the students. Profile of the students included age, sex, course, year level, parent's educational background, and combined family income. Part II asked for the level of awareness in the conduct of an educational tour under the CMO #17 s. 2012 for students before, during, and after the educational tour. Part III included the problems met by the students in the conduct of the educational tour.

The survey questionnaire adapted the 5-point Likert Scale to elicit the responses of respondents on compliance and awareness of CMO #17 and the constraints with 5 the highest and 1 the lowest value. With its corresponding descriptions as 4.51 to 5 is very much aware, 3.51 to 4.5 as much aware, 2.51 to 3.5 as aware, 1.51 to 2.50 as slightly aware and 1.0 to 1.5 as not aware.

Before the actual conduct of the study, the researcher prepared communication letters to the identified SUC's in the region asking permission to conduct the actual survey to the respondents. The researcher gave the communication letters to the office of the president through the vice presidents for academic affairs of the state universities visited and was endorsed to the respective deans of the colleges involved in the study. Given the go signal, the questionnaires were personally distributed and retrieved to the respondents by the researcher. However, for the questionnaires which were not retrieved immediately, the researcher sought assistance from the University who helped him in the retrieval of said questionnaires. In some State Universities, the researcher has gone twice in giving the survey and in retrieving the said survey questionnaires.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Profile of the Students

With regard to the profile of students, there is a higher number of females than males' sampled respondents. There are 266 or 66.57 percent females and 134 or 33.43 percent males. The majority of the students were 19 to 22 years old with 319 or 79.71 percent interpreted as "adolescent". Only 40 or 10.0 percent who were 23 and above interpreted as "above adolescent" and the majority of the respondents were Engineering students with 117 or 29.43 percent and also Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism students with 90 or 22.57 percent. There were only a few teacher education students with 29 or 7.14 percent and 22 or 5.43 percent were maritime students. The majority of the mothers were bachelor's level with 87 or 21.71 percent and there are few doctoral degrees graduate with 2 or 0.57 percent. There were 83 or 20.86 percent bachelor's graduates and 2 or 0.57 percent doctoral level for the father educational attainment. The majority of the students had a combined monthly family income category of 10,000 and below with 245 or 61.14 percent interpreted as below the poverty line. This implies that most

respondents were female, and respondents were adolescents commonly under the hotel and restaurants and tourism programs with a low combined family income yet the conduct of the activity is pursued and well participated mainly knowing the importance of the said activity.

Table 1. Profile of the Respondents

Profile Variables	Frequency	Percent (%)
Sex		
Male	134	33.43
Female	266	66.57
Total	**400**	**100.0**
Age		
23 and above (above adolescent)	40	10.0
19 – 22 (adolescent)	319	79.71
15 – 18 (young adolescent)	41	10.29
Total	**400**	**100.0**
Course/Program		
Engineering and Maritime Education	117	29.43
Business Education and Accountancy	22	5.43
Information Technology	40	10.00
Teacher Education	33	8.29
Sciences	29	7.14
Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism	32	8.00
Agriculture	90	22.57
	37	9.14
Total	**400**	**100.00**

Parent's Educational Attainment	**Father**		**Mother**	
	Frequency	**Percent %**	**Frequency**	**Percent %**
Doctoral Degree Graduate	2	0.57	0	0.0
Doctoral Level	1	0.29	2	0.57
Master's Graduate	7	1.71	9	2.29
Master's Level	9	2.29	18	4.57
Bachelor's Graduate	64	16.0	83	20.86
Bachelor's Level	87	21.71	67	16.57
High School Graduate	67	16.86	64	16.0
High School Level	78	19.43	79	19.71
Elementary Graduate	85	21.14	78	19.43
Total	**400**	**100.0**	**400**	**100.0**

Combined Family Income	**Frequency**	**Percent (%)**
30,000- and above	29	7.25
10,000-29,999 (average)	126	31.51
Below 10,000 (below poverty line)	245	61.14
Total	**400**	**100.0**

3.2. Level of Awareness among Students Before, During, and After the Conduct of Educational Tour under CMO#17

Table 2. Level of Awareness among Students before the Conduct of Educational Tour

Requirements	Mean	Description
Educational tour is included in the Curriculum of the degree program that I am enrolled	4.29	Much Aware
It is a (3) three-unit credit subject.	3.82	Much Aware
It has 3 hours/week. (A total of 54 hours/semester.	3.57	Much Aware
Updated guidelines are included in the student's handbook.	3.74	Much Aware
It is displayed in conspicuous places.	3.37	Aware
Included in the general.	3.62	Much Aware
There is an assessment report confirming the willingness/readiness to join the field trip to be filled in by the concerned faculty and students.	4.11	Much Aware
Faculty in-charge of the educational tour is officially designated with the corresponding responsibilities before, during and after the activity.	4.25	Much Aware
Advanced and proper coordination with the Local Government and other concerned non-government offices with letter requests by sending University/College shall be acknowledged and approved by LGUs or NGOs.	3.95	Much Aware
Consultation is conducted to concerned students, faculty, and stakeholders with attached minutes of consultation and attendee's signature.	4.03	Much Aware
Destination chosen, considering cost and benefit requirements, safety, and relevance with the subject matter.	4.32	Much Aware
Fund and other resources are properly secured or accounted for.	4.10	Much Aware
Briefing to concerned faculty and students provide the needed information materials.	4.15	Much Aware
Written plans by the accredited travel agency with attached Gant chart is duly approved by the University/College	3.98	Much Aware
Copy of the itinerary and Travel Agency's or Tour Operators Accreditation Certificate issued by the Department of Tourism.	3.90	Much Aware
Individual or group insurance for students, faculty, and other concerned stakeholders.	3.74	Much Aware
Standard format of learning journals given to students.	3.77	Much Aware
Announcement to students, faculty, and parents, made one (1) to two (2) months before the scheduled date of the educational tour/field trip.	4.18	Much Aware
Risk assessment plans and preventive measures are given to students and stakeholders.	3.96	Much Aware
Medical clearance of students and medical aid kits are provided.	4.15	Much Aware
Medical clearance duly signed by the parent and Physician with a waiver.	4.27	Much Aware
A written schedule of fees disseminated to concerned stakeholders.	3.90	Much Aware
Duly notarized consent submitted before the activity.	4.11	Much Aware
Sub-mean	**3.97**	**Much Aware**

Table 3. Level of Awareness among Students During the Conduct of Educational Tour

Requirements	Mean	Description
Evidence that parents or guardians were informed of the conduct of the field trip are duly documented and are available for verification of concerned agencies.	4.28	Much Aware
Program of activities must be agreed upon and the schedule must be followed.	4.23	Much Aware
Deviating from the original schedule must be duly justified.	3.85	Much Aware
Letter or MOA stating the coordination with concerned LGUs or NGOs.	3.65	Much Aware
Sub-mean	**4.00**	**Much Aware**

Table 4. Level of Awareness among Students After the Conduct of Educational Tour

Requirements	Mean	Description
Documentation of Debriefing program	4.10	Much Aware
Liquidation report by faculty in charge and submitted to CHED including details of the amount expended using Filled-in undertaking form.	3.80	Much Aware
Assessment report by students submitted to concern HEI.	3.78	Much Aware
Sub-mean	3.89	Much Aware
Overall Mean	3.96	Much Aware

The results reveal that the sub mean score of 3.97 indicates that students were much aware of the requirements of the educational tour before the activity was conducted. The indicators that obtained highest mean values are: "Destination chosen, considering cost and benefit requirements, safety and relevance with the subject matter", with a mean of 4.32, described as much aware: "Educational tour is included in the curriculum in the degree that I am enrolled" mean = 4.29, much aware; "medical clearance is duly signed by the medical officer and parents with waiver" mean = 4.27, much aware. The statement, "Evidence that parents or guardians were informed of the conduct of the field trip are duly documented and are available for verification of concerned agencies" got the highest mean of 4.28, this is followed by the "Program of activities must be agreed upon and the schedule must be followed" with a mean = 4.23. After the educational tour, the students are much aware of all the indicators under after the educational tour. It obtained a mean of 3.89. the results show that the respondents are much aware and are well informed on the conduct of the activity before, during, and after it is conducted.

3.3. Relationship between the Students Profile and Level of Awareness under CMO#17

Student's profiles such as sex, course, fathers, and mother's educational background yielded a computed correlation value of 0.148, 0.214, 0.150 and 0.148 with the corresponding p-levels of

0.015, 0.001, 0.013, and 0.014 which are all interpreted significant whose p-levels are greater than 0.05 probability level. While age and combined family income did not yield significant results whose p-levels are less than 0.05 level. The course and mothers' educational background yielded r-values of 0.154, p-level = 0.011 and r = 0.128 with p-level = 0.034 respectively interpreted significant. Both figures are greater than the 0.05 probability level. Other variables such as; age, sex, father's educational background, and combined family income among students did not show association to their level of awareness of CMO #17.

Table 5. Relationship between the Students Profile and Level of Awareness on Educational Tour Policies

Profile Variables	Correlation Coefficient (r)	P-level	Interpretation
Before the educational tour			
Age	0.011	0.857	Not Significant
Sex	0.148	0.015	Significant
Course	0.214	0.001	Significant
Father's Educational Background	0.150	0.013	Significant
Mother's Educational Background	0.148	0.014	Significant
Combined Family Income	0.106	0.082	Not Significant
During the educational tour			
Age	-0.041	0.498	Not Significant
Sex	0.087	0.149	Not Significant
Course	0.154	0.011	Significant
Father's Educational Background	0.093	0.124	Not Significant
Mother's Educational Background	0.128	0.034	Significant
Combined Family Income	0.049	0.420	Not Significant
After the educational tour			
Age	-0.108	0.075	Not Significant
Sex	0.144	0.017	Significant
Course	0.273	0.038	Significant
Father's Educational Background	0.245	0.126	Not Significant
Mother's Educational Background	0.216	0.313	Not Significant
Combined Family Income	0.263	0.060	Not Significant

The profile sex with r-value = 0.144 and course with r = 0.378, both p-level are greater than 0.05 level of significance and found significantly related to their level of awareness on the requirements among the profile variables of the students. These values affirm that students, of

which more females had a higher level of awareness than their male counterparts. Obviously, the type of course is expected to contribute to their level of awareness of the requirements after the activity. Thus, the null hypothesis is not rejected along with sex and course and it is rejected along with other profile variables of the students. The result shows that the profile of the respondents has no relationship in the preparation and conduct of the educational tour and it does not affect the pursuance of the said activity.

3.4. Problems Encountered by the Faculty In-Charge in the Conduct of Educational Tours as Perceived by the Students

The students confirm that majority of the problem is lack of money, lack of time, lack of safety, and security and management deficiencies. The mean values are 3.35, 2.81, 2.57, and 2.51 respectively. These figures are described as moderately felt problems. Other indicators are described as slightly felt problems. Its overall mean is 2.50 described moderately felt problem. Obviously, students are concerned about their safety and security and proper management of the activity but despite this moderately felt problem conduct of the educational tour is still pursued by the students.

Table 6: Problems Encountered by the Faculty In-Charge in the Conduct of Educational Tours as Perceived by the Students

PROBLEMS	STUDENTS	
	MEAN	DESCRIPTION
Lack of Money	3.35	Moderately Felt Problem
Lack of Time	2.81	Moderately Felt Problem
Lack of Safety and Security	2.57	Moderately Felt Problem
Physical Disability	2.24	Slightly Felt Problem
Family Commitments	1.92	Slightly Felt Problem
Lack of Interest in Travel due to	2.24	Slightly Felt Problem
Fears of Travel	2.37	Slightly Felt Problem
Management Deficiencies	2.51	Moderately Felt Problem
Overall Mean	2.50	Moderately Felt Problem

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

The majority of the students are female who are adolescent, mostly from the engineering field, with parents who are bachelor's degree graduates with combined family income below the poverty line. The level of awareness on the requirements in the conduct of educational tour under CMO #17 to be complied before, during, and after the educational tour is described as much aware by the students. The level of awareness of the students before the conduct of the educational tour is significantly correlated with the variables sex, course/program, and parents'

educational background. However, the course/program still shows relativity on the awareness during and after the educational tour.

Students have slightly and moderately felt problems respectively in the conduct of educational tour whether it could be lack of money, lack of time, lack of safety and security, and likewise on the management deficiencies. It is sought to have a sustainable awareness on the conduct of the educational tour with regards to the students, faculty and other stakeholders concerned, It is also suggested awareness be part of the student's and parent's orientation, part of the faculty meetings or departmental meetings and the student's handbook.

It is also recommended that the awareness of the CMO #17s 2012 is true to all degree courses that would be having the subject regardless of their year level, gender, sex, and parents' educational background. It is also possible that the discussant would be the tour coordinators and tour agencies to clarify things and issues before the conduct of the tour. Tour constraints of the students may be addressed and prepared before the tour using the proposed framework for policy redirection on the conduct of educational tours. A study on the relevance of educational tour to the program pursued by the students may be conducted to find out its strength and weaknesses to strengthen its implementation.

Conflicts of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.

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